

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph on page 1, beginning at line 5 and ending at line 11, as follows:

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a ~~moving~~ picture coding method and ~~moving~~ picture coding apparatus having a hierarchic data structure, and more particularly, to a moving picture coding method and moving picture coding apparatus suitable for a moving picture and capable of keeping high picture quality for an important area on a frame even in a low bit rate.